



Epi News



August 2006

High Hantavirus Activity

Arizona now has ten cases of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) reported in 2006. This is the highest number of HPS cases reported in Arizona in over a decade, and the year isn't over yet! HPS cases have been reported this year in Apache (1), Maricopa (3), and Navajo (6) county residents. Four cases have been fatal. Ages have ranged from 16 to 61 years. Some of these cases were seen initially by healthcare providers in Coconino County.

Several Arizona case reports this year turned out to be false positive results from commercial labs. Final laboratory confirmation **MUST** be

done through the Arizona State Health Lab, the CDC, or Tricor Lab in Albuquerque, NM. Positive results from any other lab will be not be considered confirmatory without further validation.

Any suspect cases and/or positive results should be reported to CCHD by calling 928-522-7920. CCHD can facilitate testing.



Special Needs Pre-registration

The Coconino County Health Department has developed a pre-registration process for citizens who may have special sheltering or transportation needs in the event of an emergency.

The pre-registration information will be used to assist emergency personnel in determining transportation and sheltering plans in advance of an incident.

Citizens who register will be asked for their name, address, phone numbers,

medical information, and caregiver and emergency information. Registration documents will remain confidential.

Special Needs citizens can visit the CCHD website at www.coconino.az.gov/health to pre-register, or call the CCHD at 928-522-7800 or toll-free at 1-877-522-7800.

Please provide this information to your patients or anyone else who may have special medical or transportation needs during an emergency.

Chickenpox Immunization

Beginning with the 2006 school year, children attending child care, preschool, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th grade are required to show proof of immunization (immunization record) or a history of varicella (chickenpox) infection.



Coconino County Health Department (CCHD) requests that school nurses, health assistants, and other healthcare providers document history of varicella infection or immunization on the Arizona School Immunization Record (ASIR 109). Parental recall of the disease is acceptable.

CCHD Clinic hours are 8:00 to 11:30 am and 1:00 to 4:00 pm every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2625 North King Street, Flagstaff. Appointments are strongly encouraged.

Back-to-school shots are free. Donations are welcome. Parents must bring their child's immunization records.

Please call **928-522-7920**, or toll free **1-877-522-7800**, to schedule an appointment.



Plague in the Southwest

In June, a cat from the Winona area in east Flagstaff was confirmed positive for plague by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). In addition, fleas collected from prairie dog burrows about two miles away from the home where the cat lives were confirmed positive for plague by Dr. Paul Keim's laboratory in the Department of Biology at Northern Arizona University.

No human cases of plague have been reported in Arizona this year or in Coconino County since 1996. However, plague is very active this year in some areas of the Southwest. Six human cases of plague have been confirmed in New Mexico this year, all in the north-central part of the state. A cat in northwestern New Mexico was found to have plague in early August. In

July, a man in Colorado was diagnosed with secondary pneumonic plague. Plague was also detected in rodents in a campground in southeastern Utah in May. In April, a Los Angeles woman was hospitalized with bubonic plague.



Most people become ill two to seven days after being infected with the plague bacteria. Symptoms of bubonic plague in humans include fever, painful swollen lymph nodes in the groin, armpit or neck areas,

chills, and sometimes headache, vomiting, and diarrhea. Symptoms in cats are similar. Fever, lethargy, not eating, and swollen lymph nodes (usually in the neck area) are the most common signs. With prompt diagnosis and appropriate antibiotic treatment, the fatality rate in people and pets can be greatly reduced.

Physicians who suspect plague in a patient should report the illness to CCHD by calling 928-522-7920 (After hours 928-913-6744). Veterinarians who suspect plague in an animal should call CCHD Environmental Services at 928-226-2717.

Communicable Disease Summary

Diagnosis	January - June		
	2004	2005	2006
campylobacteriosis	15	17	12
chlamydia	165	134	167
coccidioidomycosis	1	5	2
enterohemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i>	0	1	0
giardiasis	2	0	2
gonorrhea	7	13	22
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>: Invasive Disease	2	1	1
hepatitis A	1	1	3
hepatitis B	7	10	12
hepatitis C	90	45	47
meningococcal invasive disease	1	1	0
pertussis	9	15	36
salmonellosis	1	7	9
shigellosis	4	4	16
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>: invasive	10	10	6
streptococcal group A: invasive	2	9	5
syphilis	2	8	4
tularemia	0	2	0
varicella	31	20	20

*Data indicate the number of cases diagnosed during the given year in residents of Coconino County. Data do not include cases still under investigation. Data are provisional and subject to change.

Contact Information: Michael Callahan, Epidemiologist, (928) 522-7842
Linus Nienstadt, Communicable Disease Program Coordinator, (928) 522-7892